

BEN, ZOO TIGER, IS CHLOROFORMED

Coaxed Into Strange Box to Meet Death.

ONCE WITH THE CIRCUS

Keepers Hated the Task of Killing of the Powerful Beast.

Ben, the big Bengal tiger, and one of the finest animals at the National Zoological Park, was chloroformed yesterday morning. Old age was the reason for the forced demise of this great animal. Despite his twenty-five years, he was almost as vigorous a few moments before his annihilation as he was on the day he was first housed in the Zoo in 1882.

Ben died as he lived—growing, clawing, and snapping at everything within possible reach. He had been an ugly beast all his life, and during his youth gave the keepers an unlimited amount of trouble. For years he was the star attraction in the menagerie of the National Zoological Park. When the circus met with financial difficulties in the early '90s, and the equipment was taken over by the Barnum organization, Ben was left out in the cold. Barnum's circus had all the tigers they cared to exhibit. The managers contended that they were just as fine specimens as Ben, and, besides, they were not nearly so ugly, not even the most ferocious ones.

For Years at Zoo.

So this fine animal came to the local Zoo, and for years he has been the one animal that visitors have never failed to admire. During the last few years he calmed down a good deal. On several occasions lately he is said to have shown signs of friendliness.

The chloroforming procedure yesterday morning was in the nature of a star chamber session, and only the elect witnessed this ruler of the jungle as he breathed his last.

A large wooden box had been made to slide up to the door of the cage. At 10 o'clock the doors of the big animal house were locked and the box, almost air tight, was slid up to the door of the cage. An iron tube was put through the side and stuffed with cotton. The tube was so arranged that the chloroform could be poured in from the outside and the fumes be confined to the interior.

Coaxed With Scraps.

Head Keeper Blackburn and one of his assistants stationed themselves on either side of the opening in the cage, and when the big door was swung open it was made clear to Ben that he was expected to dispossess himself from the cage. Ben, however, seemed perfectly well satisfied with his present abode, and it became evident that persuasive measures would have to be resorted to. Coaxing was without avail. He only growled and looked at the big box in a manner that clearly indicated he was far from pleased. Scraps and other utensils incident to an animal building were put into use, and after a few minutes the beast was finally lodged in his death box. The slide was dropped, and the big tiger had seen his last ray of sunshine. It was a hard task for the keepers to put "Old Ben" out. It had been contemplated for some time, but on one pretext or another the ordeal has been postponed. Ben was falling fast, however, and was suffering from dyspepsia. There was a tear or two in some of the keepers' eyes when the chloroform was poured into the tube. He had been an ugly beast at times, but men who spend their lives with animals learn to love them, and hate to see them die.

Died Hard.

It took just an hour and half before Ben was pronounced dead. Dr. Butler, of the Agricultural Department, was present and performed the autopsy. In the animal's right shoulder a bullet was found. He had evidently been wounded by some hunter of big game before his capture for exhibition purposes. It was also found that one of his lungs was diseased, and his condition was such that pneumonia might have developed at any time had he caught a severe cold. He measured 9 feet 8 inches from tip to tip. His weight was only 275 pounds, but this was because of poor health and old age. Ben ordinarily would have weighed to what the keepers term the "400-pound class." It is more than likely, however, that in his prime he approached the 500-pound mark.

Credit for All Washington

Lace Curtains and Portieres

in the newest styles and most artistic effects, at prices that you cannot improve upon. A fine selection for you to choose from, and our liberal

CREDIT

system always at your disposal without anything extra to pay.

PETER GROGAN,

817-819-821-823 Seventh St.

PAINLESS DENTISTRY

Sets of Teeth, Gold Crowns, Bridge Work, etc., etc. Filling, etc. up. Painless Extracting, Examination, FREE. American Painless Dentists, Army and Navy Dental Parlor, 621 Seventh St. N. W. Phone M 4558 F.

Bigelow Scandal-Monger, Says Chairman Shonts

Head of Canal Commission Scores Critic in Cincinnati, and Demands Investigation as Right of Himself and Colleagues.

Demand Investigation as Their Right.

Speaking for the members of the commission as well as for myself, I wish to say with all possible emphasis that we not only investigate of our acts, but ask for it as a right. If we are doing our work honestly and efficiently, our hands should be upheld; if it is shown that we are doing it inefficiently, we should be removed; and if we are doing it dishonestly, we should be exposed, convicted, and sent to prison. Neither knaves nor incompetents should be permitted to have charge of a task of such magnitude. But while we court the fullest investigation, we earnestly ask that it be made by persons of character and standing, either in public or private life, whose recognized intelligence and fair-mindedness are such as to command public confidence, and that it be made upon the ground.—Chairman Shonts, of Canal Commission, to Cincinnati Commercial Club.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 20.—Theodore P. Shonts, chairman of the Isthmian Canal Commission, made a stirring defense of the work of that body on the Panama Canal, tonight, before the Commercial Club of this city. In the course of his address, the castigated Poulney Bigelow in no uncertain terms without using names calling the writer a "scandal-monger," sarcastically referring to the length of time Mr. Bigelow was on the isthmus, and ending the reference by saying that he would not waste time on his critic, as Mr. Taft had annihilated Mr. Bigelow.

Mr. Shonts also demanded for the commission an immediate investigation of canal affairs, as a right of that body and necessary to prevent demoralization of the force on the isthmus.

Mr. Shonts said in part: "Gentlemen, we are treating this task as a great business enterprise and are seeking to accomplish it by the application of strict business methods, paying no need to politics or political pulls. Our sole aim and purpose is to give the American people the full worth of every dollar they put into the work, and to hand over the work completed to them at the earliest possible day. "So long as we continue in control of the job it will be managed on these principles and on these alone. When it becomes apparent that we will not be permitted to build the canal in that way we will step aside and let somebody else take it in hand."

Scandal-Mongers.

Mr. Shonts then spoke of the publication of articles saying conditions on the isthmus were abominable and declared investigation had disproved every charge. The writers were scandal-mongers, he said.

"A notable specimen of this scandal-mongering literature," he continued, "was laid before the country a few days ago from the pen of a man who had spent twenty-eight hours and ten minutes on the isthmus. The ten minutes are important, for a person of such extraordinary powers of observation and production can collect an enormous amount of material in that time."

"He landed at Colon on November 20 at 10 a. m., and sailed away on the same steamer at 2:10 p. m. on December 1. In those twenty-eight hours and ten minutes he accumulated a fund of exact knowledge sufficient to enable him to draw a general and sweeping indictment of the President, Secretary Taft, the Canal Commission, Governor McGoon, Chief Engineer Stevens, Colonel Gorza, and everything that has been done on the isthmus since the American Government came into possession of the canal zone."

"He has been not merely answered, but annihilated by Secretary Taft, and I shall waste no time with him. One point only will I mention as an illustration of his miraculous powers of observation. He said that during a recent rain the volume of water was so great in the sewers of Panama that it 'backed the sewage up into cellars and ruined many houses.' There is not a cellar in Panama, and never has been."

Mr. Shonts then declared that the commission asked for an investigation as the right of the commission, saying that if the members were found to be acting properly they should be upheld; if they were incompetent, they should be dismissed, and if criminal, sent to prison.

"We ask further that the investigation be made promptly," he said, "and ended as soon as it can be and have its work done thoroughly. This

is absolutely necessary if we are to maintain any degree of efficiency in the organization and to retain good men in the service.

Employees Unfairly Treated.

"We protest in the name of American fair play against the dissemination in the United States of libels and slanders upon the efficiency and character of faithful workers on the isthmus who, by reason of their absence from their own country, cannot defend themselves from such assaults."

"Many of them went to the isthmus before it was made a healthful place in which to work, and in doing so faced death from disease as the soldier faces it from the bullet on the field of battle. They saw many of their comrades die from disease, but they themselves either escaped it entirely or recovered from its attack. A more loyal, faithful, efficient body of men than these servants of the United States on the isthmus is not to be found anywhere on earth. Their devotion to the interests of their country entitles them to the gratitude of their fellow-citizens, and should protect them from the cowardly attacks of that most despicable of all assailants, the man who stabs in the back."

Believes in Canal.

"Gentlemen, I believe in the canal; believe that it can be built in a reasonable time and believe that when, through American generosity and under American control, it shall be thrown open to the commerce of the world it will be hailed, and will prove to be a priceless boon to all mankind. It will justify the faith of the American people in its wisdom and world-wide beneficence, and will justify also the expenditure of millions of American money for its construction. When it shall be opened for traffic the position of this nation in relation to the trade and commerce of the world will be a most favorable one."

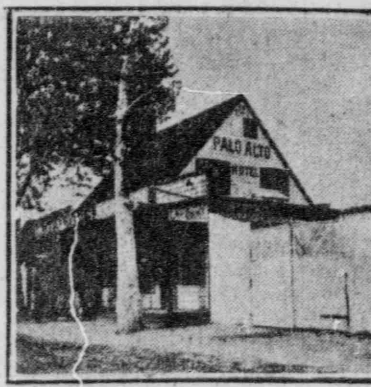
"New and larger trade relations will join the Atlantic seaboard and the Pacific coast more closely than even the transcontinental railroads have accomplished, and will tend to unify in interest and sentiment all the Americas. With the canal open there will be no Atlantic and no Pacific fleet, either in the navy or in the merchant marine, but an American fleet."

SIGNOR D'ANNUNZIO CAN'T GET A DIVORCE

TURIN, Jan. 20.—Signor d'Annunzio may be obliged to become an American citizen if he persists in trying to secure a divorce from his wife, who was the Duchess de Galliera. The federal council of Switzerland, before whom the noted Italian had filed application, has refused to grant the application and he cannot get a divorce in any Catholic country in Europe.

"FIRST AND LAST" TO CONTINUE BUSINESS

Strong Fight Against Hugh Harten's Saloon Unsuccessful.



THE "LAST CHANCE."

"Take a drink with me partner; it's the last chance."

Behind this simple invitation to drink, long a familiar expression to the residents of Brightwood avenue bordering Battle Ground Cemetery, and to the farmers of Montgomery county, Md., just beyond the District line, lies the real meaning of a determined, though unsuccessful, fight against the saloon of Hugh Harten, or as it is better known to its patrons, "The first and last chance."

That the big petition against the Harten place failed and that the Excise Board, in its wisdom, has seen fit to grant a license for this saloon to do business until the end of the next license year, October 31, is not the fault of nearly 200 earnest farmers and residents of that locality, nor the Anti-Saloon League. Attorney Shoemaker and his colleagues made a determined fight and failed.

The fight to end the Harten saloon had its inception in the farmers of Montgomery county. Their complaints against this place have been loud and long. As long as it remained at that point, they claimed, it stood as a menace to the farmers who provided produce for the markets of this city. Their hired men, they said, could not be depended on to perform their work. When the crew of the harvest fowl awakened living creatures there was no hired man to appear; when the stock was to be milked and fed, the horses watered and curried, and the chores to be done no hired man was there to answer the

call of the employer's voice. He was always to be found, the farmers explained, lounging over the bar at "The first and last chance."

When farm produce was to be delivered to the local markets, the hired man was not to be depended on to land it there. Both on the trip in and the journey home, he would be enticed to stop at this saloon. Once there, the home coming was doubtful, and then the hired man was always worse for wear. This condition, the farmers declared, had become unbearable and they appealed in one mighty-voiced petition against the re-issuance of Harten's license.

But the Excise Board heard the evidence, read the petition signed by nearly 200 well-known names and then decided that Harten's place should live. Their decision allows no appeal, and the saloon on Brightwood avenue, with the Battle Ground Cemetery and the Villa Flora Club for near neighbors, bearing the notorious cognomen "The first and last chance," will do business for at least another license year.

AUTO CLUB WILL KEEP OPEN HOUSE

Will Be Hosts During Washington Show.

PROGRAM IS OUTLINED

Many Firms Ask for Space in Exhibition Hall for Show Opening February 5.

The Automobile Club of Washington, will hold open house in their quarters at the Colonial Hotel, during the week of the automobile show in Washington, which will open on Monday evening, February 5.

At the weekly smoker of the club held last night, a program for entertaining visiting motorists was completed. It is now planned to have a portion of the armory set aside for the special use of the club's members and their friends, and in other respects arrangements are being formulated for keeping the visitors busy during the show week. The directors of the club will appoint during this week an entertainment committee from its list of members.

Members Jubilant.

This plan of action has made the members of the club jubilant. The question of whether or to what extent the club should participate in the exhibition was one not definitely settled in the minds of all the members. The newness of the organization made some of the conservative motorists rather reticent in going ahead with plans until the sentiment of every member had been ascertained. As it now stands the club will work a unit and devote every effort to playing the part of host. Announcement in a general way was made at last night's gathering of the

plans in progress for the erection of a temporary club home for the local motorists. Drawings from the architect have been approved and accepted. The clubhouse, it is said, will be built on ground adjacent to the Villa Flora, on Brightwood road. The plans accepted call for a large clubhouse built in the colonial style at an approximate cost of \$2,000.

Plans for New Clubhouse.

The location of the clubhouse is claimed to be ideal and within easy access to the city. The members consider themselves fortunate in getting a permanent home in such short notice. Mr. Duval, president of the club, entertains hopes that the club membership will profit now, as the club's last hope has been almost realized. The "smokers" which are held every Saturday night have proved to be a source of much enjoyment to local motorists, as at these gatherings "auto talk" is the only "oratorical" adjunct permitted.

Favorable Report.

At last night's meeting show talk was the principal topic of conversation. B. C. Washington, one of the club's members, who is also much interested in the success of the coming show, was the center of a large group. He outlined to the club members the success he had met with in arranging for the exhibition. Twenty-nine firms, he said, had asked for space allotments, and from present indications concerning the program of exhibition, entertainment, and other details the outlook for a really good show was very bright.

As a feature this year there will be included in the exhibition motor boats and canoes. This was planned last year, but the plans failed to materialize. This year he assures the members that their curiosity to see one of these "motor-driven boats" will be satisfied.

MRS. GILLENWATER STILL DANGEROUSLY ILL

Mrs. H. A. Gillenwater, who was stricken with paralysis while reciting a battle poem before the Confederate Veterans' Association, at their hall on Friday night, was still in a precarious condition at a late hour last night. It was stated at her home, 1609 S street northwest, that her condition had remained practically unchanged, but hopes for her recovery are entertained by members of the family.

A FAIR PROPOSITION

We Sincerely Believe That The

Cecilian Piano Player

Sold by us, right here in Washington, is superior in construction and in the artistic merit of its musical performance to any other piano player on the market. We are so confident of this fact and of our ability to demonstrate the truth of it to your complete satisfaction that we give you herewith a list of the other players handled in this city, and the addresses of the dealers in whose warehouses they may be seen and tried.

- The Pianola - - By Sanders & Stayman, 1327 F
- The Angelus - - - By Wm. Knabe & Co., 1218 F
- The Apollo - - By The F. G. Smith Co., 1225 Pa. Ave
- The Hardman - - - - O. J. De Moll, G Street
- The Simplex - - - - D. G. Pfeiffer, 1328 F Street

We ask you to go and see any or all of these players; ask the salesman to show you all the points of merit; ask him to show you just how to produce the various effects, and then sit down and

Try to Produce Them Yourself

Then come and see the CECILIAN and note the points of merit which none of our competitors are able to show; let us show you how to operate the instrument to the best advantage, and then try it yourself; see how easy it is and how perfectly it responds to the will of the performer, giving entire liberty for individual expression, and ALL THIS WITHOUT ANY FATIGUING EFFORT on your part or the use of cumbersome and confusing levers.

We ask you to do this that you may judge for yourself as to which is the best piano player. We offer the CECILIAN for sale strictly on its merits, and we believe that this is the most satisfactory way to convince you that the most artistic player of them all is sold right here in our own warehouses.

You are cordially invited to visit our Cecilian Parlors at any time.



E.F. DROOP & SONS CO.

925 Pennsylvania Avenue N. W.



The Palais Royal

A. LISNER

Tens of thousands of new 1906 Undergarments were distributed last week. The lots in greatest demand are badly "broken"—and are to be disposed of quickly, as follows:



To be \$1.19



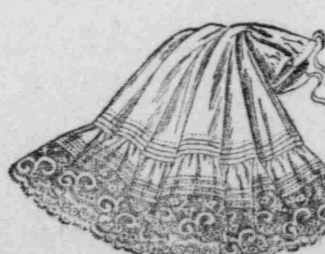
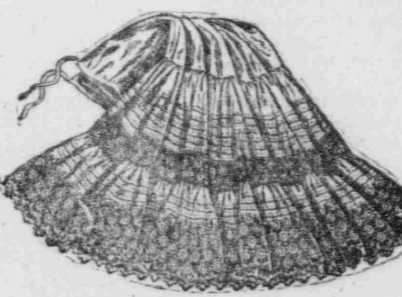
\$1.88

Some worth \$3.25

In the stock are Skirts, Gowns, etc. Early visitors will pick out the most expensive; late visitors must not expect to find them.



To be 73c



The Palais Royal

A. LISNER

G STREET